

Message Text

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ACTION AF-10

INFO OCT-01 ARA-10 NEA-11 ISO-00 EUR-12 IO-13 ACDA-12
OMB-01 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01 INR-10 L-03
NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 SP-02 SS-15 ICA-11 AID-05
HA-05 /133 W

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P R 161413Z MAY 78
FM AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 8415
INFO AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS
USINT HAVANA
USCINCEUR VAIHINGEN GER
COMIDEASTFOR
CINCPAC HONOLULU HI

C O N F I D E N T I A L ADDIS ABABA 2217

DEPT PASS HORN OF AFRICA COLLECTIVE

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PBOR, MOPS, SOPN, PINS, ET, SO
SUBJ: CHAIRMAN CONTINUES VISIT TO EASTERN FRONT AND CLAIMS
DECISIVE VICTORY IMMINENT IN ERITREA

REF: A) ADDIS ABABA 2204; B) ADDIS ABABA 2177

SUMMARY: IN TWO MORE SPEECHES AT EASTERN FRONT, PROVISIONAL
MILITARY ADMINISTRATIVE COUNCIL (DIRG) CHAIRMAN MENGISTU
INTIMATED THAT MILITARY OFFENSIVE IS ABOUT TO BEGIN IN ERI-
TREA. HE ATTEMPTED TO CHARACTERIZE ERITREAN SECESSIONIST WAR
AS "REACTIONARY" AND PRAISED VICTORY OVER SOMALIS IN EAST.
WHILE MENGISTU'S SPEECHES WERE REplete WITH REFERENCES TO
"IMPERIALISTS," HE ONCE AGAIN AVOIDED ANY DIRECT ATTACKS ON
US AND WEST. END SUMMARY.

1. DURING HARAR SPEECH, MENGISTU CONCENTRATED ON NORTHERN
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FRONT (ERITREA) AND PAST HEROICS ON EASTERN FRONT (OGADEN).
HE CLAIMED ETHIOPIAN REVOLUTIONARIES WERE PREPARING TO REPEAT
ACCOMPLISHMENTS IN EASTERN ETHIOPIA WITH "ANOTHER IDENTICAL
CHAPTER OF VICTORY IN NORTHERN ETHIOPIA IN IMMEDIATE FUTURE."
MENGISTU ENUMERATED "CRIMES" OF ERITREAN SECESSIONISTS
AGAINST BROAD MASSES AND ONCE AGAIN CHARACTERIZED SEPARATIST
MOVEMENT AS NATI-REVOLUTIONARY.

2. MENGISTU CLAIMED WAR IN ERITREA REGION IS "MASTER-MINDED BY IMPERIALISTS, COORDINATED BY REACTIONARY ARAB REGIMES AND EXECUTED BY REACTIONARY SEPARATIST ELEMENTS." SEPARATIST FORCES HAVE BEEN REJECTED BY ENTIRE PROGRESSIVE AND SOCIAL-IST CAMP AS WELL AS BY PROGRESSIVE ARAB CAMP, MENGISTU ALLEGED, LIMITING PROGRESSIVE ARABS TO PEOPLE'S DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF YEMEN (PDRY) AND PLO. (CONSPICUOUSLY MISSING WERE IRAQIS, ALGERIANS, LIBYANS AND SYRIANS.) MENGISTU NOTED AGAIN SUPPORT OF USSR, CIBA, PDRY AND GDR WHICH ARE "LINED UP ALONGSIDE ETHIOPIANS SHARING EXPERIENCES AND STRUGGLES.. (WHICH WILL) ASSURE FULL AND FINAL VICTORY." (MENGISTU DID NOT REPEAT NOT SAY THESE COUNTRIES FIGHTING IN ERITREA NOW.) HE URGED "NOW IS TIME FOR PROGRESSIVE AND REVOLUTIONARY ETHIOPIANS TO WAGE CONCERTED WAR IN NORTHERN REGION, (WHICH MUST BE) ON MORE COORDINATED LEVEL THAN IN EAST."

3. IN YET ANOTHER SPEECH AT EASTERN FRONT, MENGISTU RECOUNTED PROBLEMS WITH SOMALIA AND VICTORY OF ETHIOPIAN BROAD MASSES. "WE HAVE MANAGED TO DEMOLISH 17-YEAR-OLD PLOT IN MATTER OF 3 MONTHS." OTHERWISE HE COVERED SAME GROUND AS SPEECH REPORTED REFTEL B.

4. LEVEL OF ETHIOPIAN RHETORIC ON ERITREA HAS GREATLY INTENSIFIED PAST 3-4 DAYS AFTER TEMPORARY LULL. THERE IS SPECULATION THAT WHATEVER NEGOTIATIONS THROUGH THIRD PARTIES ON CONFIDENTIAL

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ERITREA THAT MAY HAVE BEEN TAKING PLACE HAVE BEEN DISCONTINUED FOR MOMENT AND ETHIOPIANS ARE ABOUT TO LAUNCH MAJOR MILITARY OFFENSIVE. ITALIAN MILATT BELIEVES CAMPAIGN WILL BEGIN THIS WEEK AND MAY HAVE ALREADY BEGUN. IT APPEARS THAT FOR SHORT TERM AT LEAST MENGISTU IS COMMITTED TO MILITARY SOLUTION IN ERITREA.
MATHERON

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Message Attributes

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Draft Date: 16 may 1978
Decaption Date: 01 jan 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 20 Mar 2014
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
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Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
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